



# insight

## Outstanding performances

This year's joint Festival of Arts programme explored the theme of 'Revolution' and was launched with a joint Choral and Orchestral concert held at Worth Abbey Church on 2nd March. The concert featured two outstanding solo performances: Matthew Quinn, Year 12, played part of Mozart's 3rd Horn Concerto; and Natasha Best, who performed Weber's Clarinet Concerto.

*An Enemy of the People*, by Ibsen, was one of two major productions prepared for the annual Festival. Performed in the Performing Arts Centre at Worth and directed by Nick Salazar, in the play Dr Stockmann risks his reputation and his livelihood in an effort to expose the fraud of the new health spa in the town. Vested interests soon close ranks against him and those who stay loyal to him. The opposition is led by the Mayor, his own brother.

The whole width and depth of the stage was used to show varied scenes of action, ranging from rooms in the Stockmann household to the newspaper offices and the public meeting place. Ornate props and costumes gave the whole set a rich and authentic feel. The concentration of the cast on-stage was truly impressive. Even when the main players were in full flow the other actors remained resolutely in character. A combination of excellent make up and first-rate acting made many familiar members of the school unrecognisable.

Although this was an excellent ensemble piece, with a variety of strong performances, the confrontation of Year 13

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## Winning habit

The Under 16s rugby squad continued their winning ways by securing the Sussex Cup for the second successive year with a hard fought victory over Ringmer Community College in March.

Ringmer started strongly and posed a big physical challenge for the smaller Worth side. However, after going behind 3-0 and surviving an early onslaught, Worth started to move the Ringmer forwards around the pitch with their traditional wide, running game. Matthew Donegan, Year 11, made some incisive runs from full back and two well worked tries from the backs saw Worth establish a 14-3 lead. Ben Barham, also a Year 11 student, then scored off a tremendous training ground move to extend the lead further.

The second half saw much of the same with Ringmer causing plenty of problems and having a good deal of possession. However, Worth continued to use the ball with more efficiency and scored twice more to end the game 36-8 winners. Once again Worth were impressive during the tournament; on their way to securing victory they scored 161 points in four games, conceding only 28.

The Under 16s have now concluded a very impressive season winning 14 out of their 15 matches and, as an age group, they remain undefeated at home since September 2006.



Members of the same squad were also winners of the Sussex Rugby Sevens, so this has truly been an excellent season. They have worked hard in training and for each other in matches. As their coach, Jonathan Cuff, said, "They have shown what can happen when a group of players really work together as a team."

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An Enemy of the People

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students Patrick Bernard and Anthony Lamb as the sibling rivals was at the heart of the play. With a variety of productions performed at Worth's Performing Arts Centre over recent years, it is interesting to see how students develop as actors. Anthony Lamb almost oozed insincerity as he deflated the moral enthusiasm of Patrick Bernard as

The play finishes on a note of hope amid so much gloom and despair – but the future of drama at Worth looks very bright indeed.

*Les Miserables*, the other production prepared for the annual Festival, was a sell-out success. Undaunted by the four, spectacular, three-hour performances scheduled over three days, the cast showed incredible stamina and determination by maintaining their strength (and voices) until the last rendition of the final song.

The cast of over 60 students was made up of girls from Burgess Hill School and numerous Worth boys from Years 10 to 13. Fraser Moyle, Year 13, put on a fantastic show as Jean Valjean; James Matthews, also Year 13, and Timothy Davies, Oliver Jacobs and William Kelly from Year 11 also featured in key roles.

Based on the novel by Victor Hugo the musical follows the eventful and tragic life of Jean Valjean in pre-Revolution Paris. Its mixture of sorrow, humour and romance includes many famous numbers such as *Castle on a Cloud* and *Do You Hear the People Sing?* The atmosphere of those desperate times was conveyed magnificently by the strong acting and fantastic accompanying musicians.

The Festival of Arts also included an inter-school debate, entitled; "Has the technological revolution gone too far?" and an art exhibition at each school, featuring pieces from a Life Drawing workshop and a selection of students' art and photographic work.



Les Miserables



Dr Stockmann. Patrick moved smoothly from naïve campaigner to outraged radical as he saw all his hopes dashed and his family ruined. Comment was made that an amateur actor is rarely seen to be capable of projecting such power on stage as Patrick did – and it is to Anthony's credit that he was not upstaged. He seemed to enjoy using his civic power to destroy his brother's aspirations.

editorialteam insight

- Charles Bridge (y12) ■ George Calvert (y12) ■ Benedict Cardozo (y12)
- Thomas Keefe (y12) ■ Al Matthews ■ Rebecca Paterson ■ Karen Smith

# Big in the City

In January a group of Year 12 Economics and Business Studies students visited London to get an inside look at two of the country's premier financial institutions.

At the Bank of England the students viewed a presentation on the role of the Bank in setting interest rates to keep inflation below 3% and how the institution regulates the country's financial systems to ensure confidence in the markets. After a question and answer session the students had an opportunity to tour the Bank of England museum and try their hand at being a foreign exchange trader on the museum's simulator.

Lloyds was the next destination - one of the world's leading insurance markets and certainly one of the most famous. Housed in its unique and instantly recognisable building, everything from teeth to the Olympic Games is insured at Lloyds.

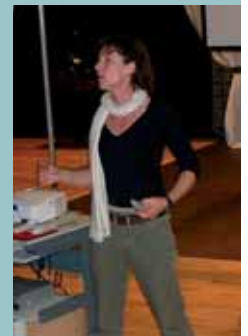
The trip gave the students a real insight into the workings of these City institutions at this time of global credit troubles and falling share prices. "This was a worthwhile and rewarding trip", said one of the IB Economics students, backed up by one of the A Level Business Studies students: "It was rewarding and intellectually stimulating" - a great success across the board.



## Headway lectures

All Year 12 students at Worth benefit from a series of talks, both formal and informal, collectively known as the Headway lectures.

Around 14 Headway events are held each academic year and are aimed at providing students with social, health and careers information. This year's talks have included *Living with HIV*, by Emma Cole who has HIV; *A Star Future* by Mark Huntingdon, about studying abroad; *Alcohol Awareness*, by Anthony McLelland from the McLelland Practice in London which specialises in overcoming addictions; *Gap Advice* by Roger Salwey of Oyster Worldwide, about the rewards and pitfalls involved in taking a gap year before university; and *Look Before You Leap*, by Sandra Gregory, who has written a book on her experiences after being jailed in Thailand for smuggling drugs.



Sandra Gregory speaking at a recent Headway lecture

"We are aiming to provide Year 12 with information to help them make choices that will face them as they go out into the world" says Dr Sheena Bartlett, one of the teaching staff who organises the Headway events. "The talks have been favourably received and the boys have found some of them very powerful, particularly the drug and alcohol talks. We vary the content of the talks a little each year and try to accommodate any areas where the boys have asked for information."

The Summer term Headway lectures include *Road Safety* by a member of the Road Standards Agency and guidance on *Personal Statements* from UCAS Co-ordinator Simon Smith.

# Cricket tour to Dubai

A Worth cricket squad spent the first week of the Easter break in warmer climes, taking part in the inaugural Arabian Challenge Cricket Series. Joining Worth in this prestigious competition were teams from Eastbourne College, Wellington School and St Bede's School.

All the matches and practice sessions were organised to take place during the same period as the Pro ARCH Trophy tournament, in which Lancashire, Sussex, Essex, Yorkshire and Somerset cricket clubs, as well as the UAE National side, played a series of twelve day/night games.

"The tour was a great experience and an eye opener for the Worth boys both on and off the field" said cricket coach Raj Chaudhuri, who, along with Head of PE and Games Vince Holden, accompanied the squad. In the competitive



The Worth squad in the Zayed Cricket Stadium



atmosphere of the 18,000 seat Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi and with temperatures around 35°C Worth felt the pressure but consistently recorded scores of over 150 runs. Matthew Donegan, Ben Wright, Charlie Forbes and Ed Watson in particular performed well with the bat.

"It was a steep learning curve but the boys have got an idea of what they should aim to master in their skills. Off the field it was a great experience for them, to travel to an Islamic country with very different rules and regulations, culture and lifestyle," added Mr Chaudhuri.

**The Worth squad comprised of boys from years 10 to 13: Thomas Prower (captain), Benjamin Wright, Edward Watson, Charles Forbes, Samuel Bradley, Anthony Lamb, Oliver Wright, Matthew Donegan, Joseph Rivers, Theodore Rivers, Aidan Baun, John Manning, James Cliffe and Christopher Adlam.**

## Eco Conference

At the end of January, Worth hosted its second annual Eco Conference, organised by the student-run Eco-Worth society. There were four speakers in attendance: Michael Powell from Greenpeace UK; Lady Dido Berkeley from Thamesbank, an organisation which challenges environmentally unsound activities; Henry Muss, an energy consultant from the Carbon Trust and Robert Barstow, who spoke on behalf of Sustainable Redhill. Over 30

schools from around the country were invited to the conference and many Worth students also attended.

Those present were regaled with interesting and informative talks on a variety of green-related topics, ranging from the most efficient ways to utilise solar energy for domestic purposes to our rights and responsibilities when faced with the need for action. There was also a question and answer session at the end of each talk in which

many insightful questions were asked and answered, both by the floor and the staff present.

The students present enjoyed the day and expressed their desire to see the conference run again next year. Benedict Cardozo, Year 12, said: "I found the talks very interesting. The speakers spoke well and I learned a lot from them."





Authors Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore at Worth

## Memorable World Book Day

Year 7 and 8 pupils were given a unique opportunity to interact with the authors of some of their favourite books in February, when renowned children's authors Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore came to Worth.

In an all-day event organised to celebrate World Book Day, the two authors gave talks, led workshops and eventually signed huge numbers of books for the boys. The students enjoyed learning about how to set a scene and eagerly participated in trying to come up with a great opening line, characters and interesting events for a story. In addition the two authors, who were quite a comedy duo, described their writing lives with the same flair they brought to the readings of their books, inciting gales of laughter from their audience, who listened with interest to the challenges and successes the two Steves had experienced.

Comments from the appreciative students included, "They were amusing and told us about their life and how to make a good opening sentence" and "The two Steves were very funny – they had many jokes and stories to tell", an opinion shared by many of the boys, who thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Worth's librarian, Janny Harris, also invited staff and students to 'Pick up a book and read' on World Book Day itself, 6th March. "Students are influenced by their peers and by teaching staff," said Mrs Harris. Many members of the Worth community took up her invitation and spent part of the day with their nose in a book.

## 'Green Day' event success

Another successful eco event was organised by students involved in Eco-Worth in the penultimate week of the Lent term. On designated 'Green Day' all students paid just one pound each to wear non-uniform clothes providing they included a green item.

Students were also involved in individual fund raising. Year 12 student Antony Riley raised £500 and the total collected on the day was over £1000. Green Day is fast becoming a Worth tradition that all the community look forward to and are involved in.

A vegetarian lunch featured as part of the day's events. Vegetarian meals generally require less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions partly because they usually use a greater percentage of locally sourced ingredients than meals containing meat.

As part of their efforts, Eco-Worth have also held a continuing 'saints and sinners' campaign highlighting how much food is wasted at school mealtimes. Since the beginning of the campaign food wastage has indeed declined by a significant amount.

## Gold standard at Worth



Anthony Lamb and Benedict Oakley

Two students have recently reached the highest standard attainable in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Worth. Year 13 students Benedict Oakley and Anthony Lamb received their Gold Awards early in the Lent term.

The Gold award is only for the most committed as it takes such dedication, diligence and perseverance, with over 30 months of service, sport and a skill required. It is a significant achievement and in total five Worth students have now managed to complete their Gold Award before the end of Year 13. The school's Duke of Edinburgh Award co-ordinator, Fr Peter, said, "I hope this good example very much sets a precedent that future Gold candidates will emulate."

Unlike other accolades, the Award scheme focuses on individual and group achievements in a non-competitive atmosphere. Worth is a centre of excellence for the Award: being an Award Centre also allows the school a certain freedom in the activities it can offer as part of the service, sport and skills categories.

Commenting on his experience of the scheme, Benedict said, "For me I see it as something I can never do again, an independent adventure with my friends but yet under controlled and safe conditions."

"Great comradeship and team building taught me how to get on with people in difficult situations, which I will be able to use later in life," added Anthony.

## News in brief

### Worth students receive exceptional offers from Cambridge

Two Year 13 students have both received particularly outstanding offers to study at Cambridge University.

Nathan Gower received a matriculation offer to read Classics at Christ's College, Cambridge. As an International Baccalaureate Diploma student this means he only needs to secure the minimum pass mark of 24 points to confirm his place. The maximum score is 45 points and a typical Cambridge offer would start at 41 points. Nathan's is the first matriculation offer that an IB Diploma student at Worth has received.

Nathan is one of three Worth students who have gone on to study at Christ's College in recent years. "I was absolutely delighted when I received my offer, as it was a real reward for years of hard work," Nathan said. "I owe an immense debt of gratitude to my teachers here at Worth, all of whom have supported me and helped me achieve the best grades I could. I am very excited and looking forward to my education at Cambridge, as it will enable me to pursue my chosen subject at the highest possible level."

Simon Smith, Worth School's Director of Academic Administration, said, "We are delighted for Nathan. He is a very hard working young man who has embraced the broad holistic education provided by the IB Diploma course. It is good to see such academic institutions recognising the rigour of the Diploma and its preparation for undergraduate study at the very highest level. It is excellent to see him being made such an achievable offer, but we are of course confident he will get much more than 24 points."



Nathan Gower

Benedict Oakley has won a Choral Scholarship into the world famous choir of King's College, Cambridge. The King's College Choir's Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is traditionally broadcast live each Christmas Eve.

The Scholarship comes alongside Ben's offer of a place to read music at King's College for 2009. He joins the list of Worth choristers who have gone on to win choral awards at university in recent years. Previous recipients have won awards at Christ Church and Magdalen Colleges, Oxford, Clare and Christ's Colleges, Cambridge, Edinburgh University and Trinity College, Dublin. At present a Worth old boy is the Senior Organ Scholar at Hertford College, Oxford.

"When anyone asks me how I think I got in, I can only say 'being at Worth'. I see it as a fitting conclusion to the happiest years of my life here," said Benedict. "I am truly grateful to Worth for everything the school has done for me."

Director of Music, Michael Oakley, said, "Ben's election to a Choral Scholarship at King's is hugely exciting. We have established a fine choral tradition here at Worth in recent years. Hopefully this award, along with all our other successes, will spur present choristers to ever greater choral success and tempt prospective choristers to Worth to find out more about the Music Department and the School."

### SOS Botswana benefits from Charity Night

St Bede's House held a Charity Night in February in aid of their chosen charity, SOS Botswana. Started two years ago, this charity aims to support the increasing number of orphans in Botswana, most of whom are afflicted with Aids. So far the charity has funded the building of an entire village to house and care for such children.

February's event was in the form of a pub quiz, organised by Year 12 students, and was attended by over 70 boys and parents who also enjoyed a meal as part of the evening. Those attending were tested in a variety of subjects, from spelling to politics. The evening ended with a raffle, the prizes for which were generously donated by parents. The night was a great success and over £400 was raised.

The SOS Botswana campaign will continue throughout the year with a Tug-of-War competition, arranged by Year 12 student Edward Watson, being held in the Summer Term. It is hoped that the Charity Night will become an annual event.

### Worth hosts Prep Schools Cross Country

On a surprisingly mild afternoon towards the end of the Lent term, Worth hosted the Prep School Cross Country. Torrential rain had soaked the course during the morning but this did not prevent the top runners recording good times in what were, in places, difficult conditions.

Year 7 and 8 students from six schools took part in the event, including boys from Great Walstead, Haslemere and Dorset House.

The top Worth finishers in the Under 12 race were: Sebastian Llobera Gili, Henry Jacobs and Dominik Masojada. In the Under 13s race, Worth's fastest were Lucas Gervas Baldasano, Miles Bateson and Joseph Jefferys.



### Worth School website

For the latest Worth School news and events, please visit [www.worthschool.co.uk](http://www.worthschool.co.uk)

### Dates for the diary

- 24 May  
Speech Day
- 28 June  
School Leavers' Mass, Abbey Church, 7:15 pm
- 28 June - 15 July  
Chile Expedition
- 29 June - 4 July  
Choir tour to Berlin